

# KEEPING IN TOUCH

## Congressman David Price

Dear Friend:

In the last year, our nation has faced unprecedented economic challenges. While we have come a long way toward reversing the trend in job losses, many American families are still feeling the effects of the recession in their daily lives. It's clear that more work remains to be done, and as the 111th Congress convenes, creating jobs and improving the economy will continue to be my highest priority.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act helped halt the economy's free fall by injecting over \$812 million into the Triangle economy and cutting taxes for 95% of Tarheel State residents. In the months since the Recovery Act was passed, the rate of job losses has lessened dramatically. In fact, the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office reports that the Recovery Act has saved or created 1.6 million jobs. On balance, however, the economy is still losing more jobs than it is creating. North Carolina's unemployment rate stands at a record-high 11.2%, while the rate for the Triangle is still an unacceptably high 8.7%.

I believe we need to focus on the Main Street businesses that are the foundation of our economy. Small businesses are the top job creators in this country, and they will play a pivotal role in the recovery. I recently hosted a "Jobs Roundtable" to talk with local business leaders about the state of the economy. They reported that the credit crunch remains a significant barrier to job creation; they need access to credit so they can create new positions and innovate. I will continue pushing this year for legislation that boosts capital for small businesses.

It is also critical that we put in place a set of common-sense regulatory reforms to ensure that banks and Wall Street traders can never again imperil the global economy. In December, I joined with the majority of my colleagues to pass the Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, which includes major reforms to the way that banks do business and broad new protections against abusive lending practices. Among other things, it would ensure that financial institutions can never grow "too big to fail" and bring the "shadow banking system" that contributed to the financial crisis under the oversight of an effective watchdog. This legislation follows in the footsteps of the new Credit Cardholder's Bill of Rights, prohibiting predatory fees and other abusive practices by credit card companies, which I helped write.

A return to prosperity likewise will require us to address the problems that are sapping resources from both businesses and families — including energy and health care costs. Between 2000 and 2007, the average North Carolina family saw its health insurance premiums increase 75% while its earnings rose only 14%. The American people need a health care system that works for them — one that provides access to stable coverage, quality care, and affordable premiums and copayments. In the coming months, I will continue to work to enact a health insurance reform bill that achieves these fundamental goals without adding to our national debt.

As we undertake efforts to create jobs and strengthen the economy, it is critical that we maintain our commitment to fiscal responsibility and accountability. Throughout my time as your representative, I have joined with legislators on both sides of the aisle to pass statutory Pay-As-You-Go legislation, which requires new spending to be offset so that it doesn't add to the deficit. Another promising proposal would create a bipartisan commission on the budget deficit to chart a course back to fiscal balance. I will continue to work for policies that set appropriate spending priorities and ensure the solvency of Social Security and Medicare.

Over the coming months, I pledge to work to improve the economy, rein in the deficit, and address the rising costs of health care and other necessities that are squeezing family budgets. I urge you to keep me informed of your views on the difficult issues facing our country.

Sincerely,

David Price  
Member of Congress



## The Recovery Act in the Fourth Congressional District

Local initiatives funded by the Recovery Act include:

- \$49 million (approx. \$251 per student) for Triangle school systems to preserve teaching jobs and upgrade aging facilities.
- \$227 million to local higher educational institutions for lab-ready, life-saving research on maladies like heart disease and cancer.
- \$79.8 million for job training programs across North Carolina to prepare workers to fill new jobs, or change careers.
- \$86 million for Triangle road construction, resurfacing projects, and transit upgrades that will make our roads safer.
- \$28.8 million to expand broadband Internet access to underserved communities and all of North Carolina's educational institutions.
- \$40 million for a new headquarters for the North Carolina National Guard.

Increasing transparency has been a focus of my work in Congress. You can see details on every investment funded through the Recovery Act at [www.recovery.gov](http://www.recovery.gov).

## Moving Forward: The Jobs for Main Street Act

Over the coming months, I will work to pass the Jobs for Main Street Act. Its provisions will:

- Increase access to affordable credit for small businesses, the primary engine of job creation.
- Expand support for community-based jobs training programs in high-growth and emerging industry sectors, especially in health care and "green" industries.
- Improve transportation infrastructure with \$27.5 billion for shovel-ready projects.
- Support for 250,000 summer jobs for youth; 14,000 jobs on national public lands; 250,000 work-study jobs to keep students in school; and 25,000 more AmeriCorps jobs serving communities across the country.
- Provide \$1.18 billion to keep 5,500 law enforcement officers on the beat, and \$500 million to retain, rehire, and hire firefighters across the country.

## Health Insurance Reform: What's in It for You?

Reforming our health insurance system is an ongoing challenge, but the potential benefits make it worth fighting for. I believe reform must offer:

- **Better benefits:**  
No more annual or lifetime caps on covered benefits.
- **Peace of mind:**  
Never again will an insurance company be able to deny coverage or cancel your policy when you file a claim.
- **Coverage for young people:**  
Requires policies to give parents the option of including children up to their 27th birthday.
- **Coverage for seniors:**  
Closes the Medicare Part D Donut Hole.
- **Lower premiums:**  
Creates competition and choice, empowering consumers and small businesses.

**NC-04 Funding: \$812.2 million**  
**Overall NC Funding: \$4.2 billion**  
**Jobs Impact: 1.6 million jobs  
saved or created**

*(Congressional Budget Office estimate)*

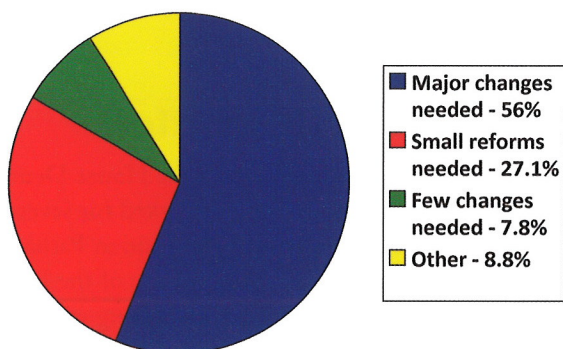




## Survey Results

Six thousand Fourth District residents filled out the survey printed in the last issue of "Keeping in Touch" and made available on my website. Knowing your views helps me do my job, and I appreciate your taking the time to respond to the survey. Here are the results:

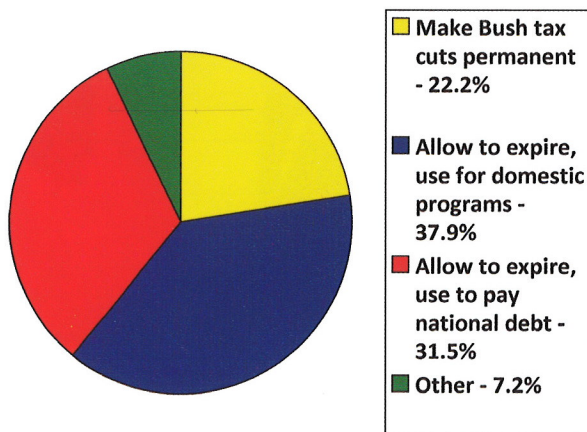
- What is your general perspective on our health insurance system?



- Do you have personal health insurance coverage and, if so, how do you feel about it?

39.4% Have coverage, very satisfied  
 40.1% Have coverage, believe it could be improved  
 10.6% Have coverage, dissatisfied  
 3.5% Do not have coverage  
 5.8% Other

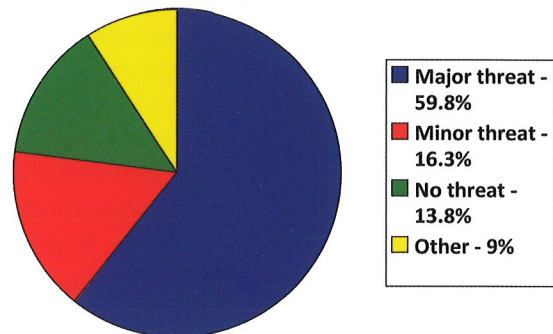
- The Bush tax cuts for people making over \$250,000 per year are scheduled to expire next year. What should Congress do?



- Which of the following elements of health insurance reform do you favor? (Pick all that apply.)

75.5% Forbid preexisting condition denials  
 67.3% Provide subsidies to buy insurance  
 55.9% Establish a public option plan  
 49.2% Reward providers for better health outcomes  
 45.5% Require businesses to cover employees

- How serious a problem is global warming for our environment and society?



- Which of the following elements of clean energy legislation do you favor? (Pick all that apply.)

66.2% Reduce the use of fossil fuels compared to renewable and other non-polluting sources of energy  
 54.8% Set overall limits on greenhouse gas pollution and use market-based incentives to reduce industry emissions  
 79.5% Increase research and development of alternative energy sources  
 68.8% Provide financial incentives to conserve energy for homeowners, car owners, and businesses



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## How Can I Help?

As your Representative in Congress, it is my privilege to assist you with federal agencies and services. Please contact one of my offices if I can help.

**Rep. David Price**  
North Carolina's 4th District

### RALEIGH OFFICE

5400 Trinity Road  
Suite 205  
Raleigh, NC 27607  
Phone: 919.859.5999

### DURHAM OFFICE

411 W. Chapel Hill Street  
NC Mutual Building,  
6th Floor  
Durham, NC 27701  
Phone: 919.688.3004

### CHAPEL HILL OFFICE

88 Vilcom Center  
Suite 140  
Chapel Hill, NC 27514  
Phone: 919.967.7924

### WASHINGTON, DC OFFICE

2162 Rayburn Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
Phone: 202.225.1784

## Constituent Services

The mission of my three district offices is to offer constituents the information and services they need. Here are some of the ways I can help:

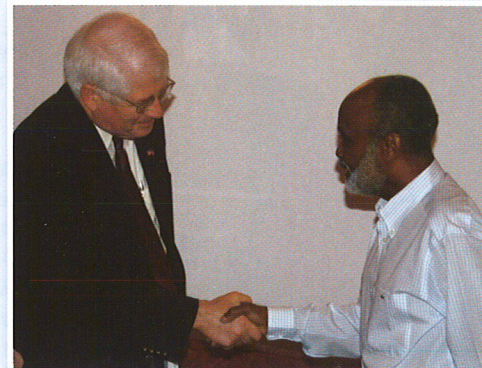
- **Help with a federal agency:** While I can't change the decision of a federal agency, I can intervene on your behalf to identify available solutions or cut through red tape. Over the years, I have helped constituents solve problems with agencies like the IRS, Medicare, the VA, and the Social Security Administration.
- **Information about federal grants:** Federal grants are available for many important projects. On my website, you can find a detailed clearinghouse of information on the federal grants application process at: [http://price.house.gov/services/federal\\_grants.shtml](http://price.house.gov/services/federal_grants.shtml).
- **Learn about how to get student loans:** Federal financial aid is one of the leading ways young people cover the cost of college, but the application process can be daunting. I am happy to help you find the information you need to file applications for aid.
- **Applying to a service academy:** It is my honor, as a Member of Congress, to nominate young people for service academy positions. If you, or someone you know, is interested in applying, please contact my office.

## Haiti Relief Effort

As the Chairman of the House Democracy Partnership, I have worked for several years with members of the Haitian Parliament to strengthen the capacity of the Haitian government. The devastating earthquake that struck Haiti in early January is a profound setback to all of our efforts, and a massive humanitarian relief effort is now required.

The Triangle has many ties to Haiti, including a vibrant Haitian-American community and many local faith-based and community organizations that have sent volunteers, relief aid, and supplies to the country.

To find out more about what you can do, visit the website for the United States Agency for International Development: [www.usaid.gov](http://www.usaid.gov).



Congressman Price meets Haitian President René Préval during the 2007 trip that welcomed Haiti's parliament to the House Democracy Partnership.